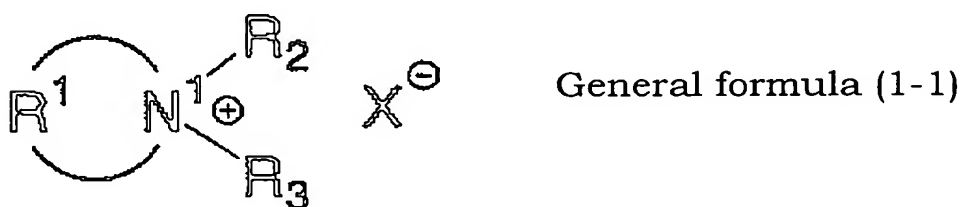


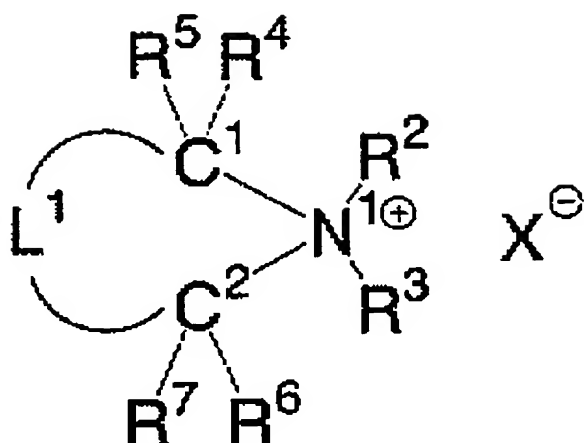
What is claimed is:

1. An image forming material comprising, on a substrate, an image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) a compound represented by the following general formula (1-1):



wherein in general formula (1-1), R^1 represents a residue which, together with N^1 , forms a ring structure; R^2 and R^3 each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; at least one of R^2 and R^3 may combine with R^1 to form a ring structure; and X^- represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

2. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by general formula (1-1) is represented by the following general formula (1-1-a):



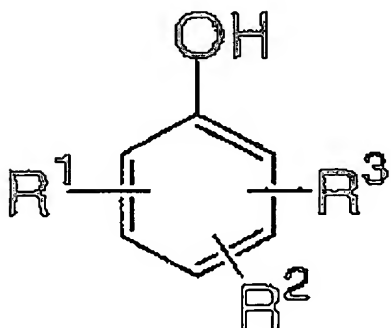
General formula (1-1-a)

wherein in general formula (1-1-a), R^2 and R^3 each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; X^- represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid; R^4 through R^7 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, may be the same as or different from one another, and may combine with one another to form a ring; R^4 through R^7 may each combine with L^1 , R^2 or R^3 to form a ring structure; when a bond between L^1 and C^1 or C^2 is a double bond or a triple bond, some of R^4 through R^7 do/does not exist in accordance with the existence of the double bond or the triple bond; L^1 represents a single bond or a divalent linkage group which, together with $-C^1-N^1-C^2-$, forms a ring structure; R^4 and R^5 may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond between C^1 and R^4 , which is also R^5 , becomes a double bond; and R^6 and R^7 may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond

between C² and R⁶, which is also R⁷, becomes a double bond.

3. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein a mass of the compound represented by general formula (1-1) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

4. An image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I), and an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein in general formula (I), R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom.

5. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

6. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

7. An image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.

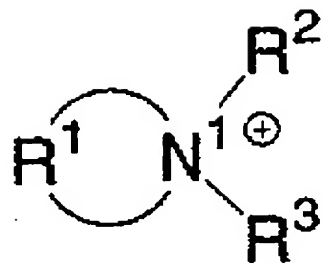
8. An image forming material comprising, on a substrate, an image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) an onium salt represented by the following general formula (1-2):

General formula (1-2) X^-M^+

wherein, in general formula (1-2), X^- represents an anion including at least one substituent that has an alkali dissociative proton and M^+ represents a counter cation selected from the group consisting of a sulfonium ion, an iodonium ion, an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, and an oxonium ion.

9. An image formation material according to claim 8, wherein M^+ in general formula (1-2) is represented by the following general formula

(M-1)

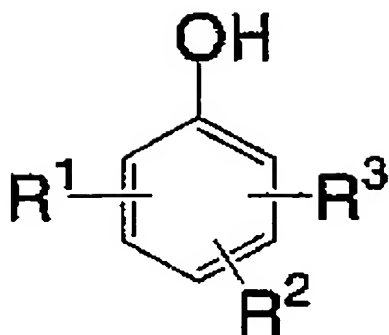


General formula (M-1)

wherein in general formula (M-1), R^1 represents a residue which, together with N^1 , forms a ring structure; R^2 and R^3 each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; and at least one of R^2 and R^3 may combine with R^1 to form a ring structure.

10. An image forming material according to claim 8, wherein a mass of the compound represented by general formula (1-2) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

11. An image forming material according to claim 8, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I), and an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein in general formula (I), R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom.

12. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

13. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

14. An image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.